

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claim 10 is newly presented herein and is directed to originally disclosed subject matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C §102 and §103

Claims 1, 2 and 9 continue to stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-076296 to Noriyuki et al. and claims 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noriyuki in view of various other references. Applicants have amended the claims herein to further clarify the novel and inventive features of the present invention that distinguish it over the prior art. Applicants submit that the claims as presently amended are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the art on record, and request the Examiner to kindly reconsider and withdraw all rejections.

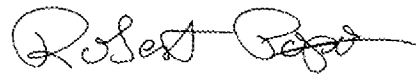
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In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Popa
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,010
LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100
Los Angeles, California 90036
(323) 934-2300 voice
(323) 934-0202 facsimile
rpopa@la.ladas.com